

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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5 In an image data retrieval apparatus when images stored in an image database are listed and displayed in a listing window or an image search is conducted and as a result an image of interest is displayed in a search result window the user double-clicks an image including a desired figure therein. In response the double-clicked image is enlarged and thus displayed. When the user places a mouse pointer at the position of the face of the figure in the image and then drags the mouse pointer a pixel therearound is analyzed and a face image is cut out. The face image cut out is dragged to the position of a key face entry frame and dropped therein, and thus serves as a retrieval key. Thus a retrieval key image can readily be designated. Consequently, appropriately designating an image serving as a retrieval key can alleviate the user's data entry operation and thus provide an image data retrieval apparatus improved in usability.

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